

H:1A

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/644,005

Examiner

James R. Scott

Applicant(s)

KASAKAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

2832

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communications filed 8/20/2003 and 4/01/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1-6.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

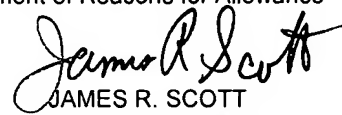
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
 Paper No./Mail Date 20030820
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
 of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
 Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
 JAMES R. SCOTT  
 PRIMARY EXAMINER  
 GAU 2832

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

The Examiner has made no amendments to the IFW application.

### **Drawings**

The drawings filed 8/14/2003 are approved.

### **Cited References**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art cited by applicants discloses an automatically adjustable tappet switch used in the automotive environment. Gores, Cass et al, Bryant Kyonomine, Leighton, Gebhardt, Ayres et al, Magome et al, Jacob, Frank et al and Ziem disclose the use of automatically adjustable push button type switches used in association with a vehicle pedal or the like in an automotive environment. The closest prior art constitutes the Kasakawa et al patent document noting the spring 38, which is critical in the adjustment of the shaft 39, and the locking portions 39a at a particular operating position.

### **Reasons for Allowance**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not disclose a stoplight switch including a casing having an open upper surface, a

Art Unit: 2832

sliding body vertically mounted for sliding within the case, a switch contact operated by the sliding body to cause electrical connection and disconnection, an action rod which is inserted into the sliding body, a cover having an opening for the through which the action rod projects upwardly, a roughly u-shaped engagement spring supported by the sliding body and a spacer for retaining the engagement spring in an expanded state in a manner such that the pressing section extends out of the bottom surface or side surface of the case and a contact section engaging an end portion of the U-shaped engagement spring where the end portion of the engagement spring is detached from the spacer so that the action rod is secured relative to the sliding body. The prior art likewise does not disclose the particular method for mounting the stoplight switch.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Summary**

Claims 1-6 are allowed.

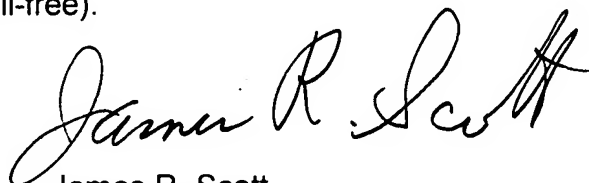
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Scott whose telephone number is (571) 272-1999. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 1-5 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2832

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JRScott: jrs  
3/21/2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James R. Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" and "S".

James R. Scott  
Primary Examiner  
GAU 2832